



THE GETTYSBURG MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

After battles, tons of debris littered the fields.

Rediscover some of the objects left behind after the battle of Gettysburg.

In this activity, you will work to discover. . .

a watch, uniform button, cartridge box, headquarters flag, field glasses, telescope, makeshift cane, wallet, company roster, two rifles, a battlefield sketch, bullet-ridden tree branch, farmhouse furniture, two bullets that met in mid-air, photographs, a personal letter and a Bible.

Day 1 – July 1, 1863

Go directly to and catch the media presentation all about the first day of battle, and then explore its Key Moments further through object connections, identified below.
(Key Moments of the battle are identified beside each exhibit case.)

The First Shot, 7:30 a.m.

Find the **Sharps Carbine** and compare it to the “**Mississippi Rifle**”. These are the types of weapons, used against each other, that started the battle. What was a strength of each weapon?

On McPherson’s Ridge, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Find the **watch and button** from Confederate dead in the unfinished railroad cut. Was that railroad cut a good or a bad position for the Confederate soldiers? Explain your answer.

Collapse, 3 p.m.

Find the **cartridge box** that belonged to Private Albert Odell. Write down the name of his regiment, and explain how we know that this was *his* cartridge box.

Evening of A Desperate Day, July 1 – evening

Locate **Hancock's National Flag** that signaled his headquarters as he took over command. How did most Union soldiers feel when they saw this flag at Gettysburg on July 1? Why?

Day 2 – July 2, 1863

Watch the media presentation all about the second day of battle, and then explore its Key Moments further through object connections, identified below. (Key Moments of the battle are identified beside each exhibit case.)

Lee's Dilemma, 10 a.m.

Notice the set of **field glasses**. Imagine what General Lee might have seen through them when he arrived on the field. Describe what Lee and Samuel R. Johnston discovered about the enemy that morning.

Sickles' Decision, 2 p.m.

See **George Kistler's cane**. *Where* did he first use the cane, and *what* was it made from?

Little Round Top, 6 p.m.

Locate **General Warren's telescope**. To which part of the battlefield will his name be forever linked?

9th Massachusetts' Sacrifice, 6:30 p.m.

Glimpse Medal of Honor recipient **Charles Reed's battlefield sketch**. Besides drawing, what two other skills or traits can you discover about him within this case?

On Cemetery Ridge, 7:30 p.m.

Find **Sgt. James Irwin's "effects"**. Effects were the items found on a soldier's body before he was buried or carried off of the battlefield; they were usually sent home to the family. What two items were found on Irwin's body?

On Two Hills, 7:30 p.m.

Note the **bullet-ridden tree branch** from the battle for Culp's Hill. What is the weight of the artillery piece that also fell there?

At Meade's Headquarters, Midnight

Discover the **furniture of the Widow Leister**. In your opinion, which item would Meade have found most useful as the commander of an army in the midst of battle? Explain.

Day 3 – July 3, 1863

Watch the media presentation all about the third day of battle, and then explore its Key Moments further through object connections, identified below.

(Key Moments of the battle are identified beside each exhibit case.)

The Best Laid Plans, morning

Locate the **fused bullets**. These bullets met in midair above which hill?

Pickett's Charge, 3:30 p.m.

Find the **photograph of Private John Cassidy**, 69th Pennsylvania Infantry. Besides Cassidy himself, what else was hit by a bullet that day?

Is the battle over? Late afternoon

Read **Jacob Bechtel's letter** written from Gettysburg on July 6. Which battle does he compare with Gettysburg?

Now . . .

Use your battlefield Auto Tour map to circle the locations of as many of the above Key Moments of Battle as you can. These circles will also then mark the original locations of the “battle debris” that you’ve rediscovered in the museum today.



Remember these artifacts and these soldiers as you explore the battlefield.